Leave taken by Postmen

2721. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of postmen in the big cities go on leave during the summer months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the; same number of substitutes are not appointed to handle the mails and it leads to reduced number of mail delivery; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Necessary arrangements are made to handle the delivery work of absentee postmen. There is usually no reduction in the number of deliveries.

Reserved trained pool in Posts and Telegraphs Department

2722. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there are almost 50,000 candidates in Reserved Trained Pool who ar$_e$ employed not only on casual basis but are on piece rate basis also;

(b) whether the irate fixed by the De partment is only Rs. 2.75 per hour and as per provision the candidates are given only three hours job per day. Thus getting only Rs. 8.25 daily;

(c) whether the earning of Rs. 8.25 daily is not less than the fixed minimum wages of agriculture workers in many states;

(d) whether this scheme is continuing since 1981; and

(e) if so. whether any action is being taken to fix a decent, daily wage including security of service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) There are about 7,000 RTPs in the Department of Telecom, and 12,000 RTPs in the Department of Posts. They are not treated as Casual as engagement of casual hands in Group 'C is not permissible. However, they are recruited against future anticipated vacancies and their services are utilised in short-term arrangements on hourly rates of wages as fixed from time to time till such time vacancies earmarked for direct recruitment become available for their absorption.

(b) At present RTPs are paid at the rate of Rs. 2.75 per hour and revision of rates of RTPs staff is under consideration. There is no restriction to limit their engagement to 3 hours only per day.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

(d) The scheme is continuing from 1980.

(e) A proposal for revision of hourly rate paid to the RTPs is under consideration of Government.

Telephone advisory Committee for Rajkot

2723. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAT RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telephone Advisory Committee for Rajkot City and Rajkot Rural areas have been formed very recently for 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) if so, what are the number, names and status of the persons who have been nominated therein;

(c) how many members were nominated in the past Telephone Advisory Committee and what were the names and status of the said members; and

(d) who recommended the names of those persons and what are the reasons therefor?